



**State of New
Hampshire
Department of
Education**

101 Pleasant Street
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 271-3494 or
1-800-339-9900
TDD: 1-800-735-2964
Fax: (603) 271-1953
www.education.nh.gov

For more information
please contact:
Lori Temple
Public Information Officer
(603) 271-6646 or
Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov

Messages From the Department of Education

January 2013

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|---------|
| Survey and Resources in the Aftermath of Sandy Hook..... | Page 2 |
| Accountability, Assessment, Curriculum, and School Improvement..... | Page 3 |
| Certification | Page 5 |
| Data..... | Page 6 |
| Funding | Page 7 |
| Grants and Requests For Proposals (RFPs) | Page 7 |
| Hearings | Page 8 |
| Innovations/Initiatives | Page 8 |
| NH High School Redesign | Page 8 |
| School Approval Standards | Page 9 |
| Special Education..... | Page 9 |
| Professional Development..... | Page 10 |
| Resources | Page 11 |
| Other | |
| • Awards..... | Page 12 |
| • Contests..... | Page 14 |
| • Grants | Page 14 |
| • Conferences/Workshops..... | Page 15 |
| • Misc. | Page 15 |

Survey and Resources in the Aftermath of Sandy Hook

Certainly we know that many of you have had very difficult and involved weeks in the aftermath of the tragic Newtown, Connecticut shootings. Many of you have held multiple meetings with different concerned stakeholders, from staff, to students, to concerned parents and community members. Please accept our profound thanks for the work you have done providing leadership and support to New Hampshire schools and communities.

Incidents like the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School remind us that our schools and childcare centers may be faced by acts of violence and thus we must all plan and drill in the face of the possibility of being involved in one of these incidents. We should also keep in mind that our schools and childcare programs, as well as the larger community, may be impacted by natural as well as technological hazards. Therefore we need to work together to ensure we are prepared to respond when the next disaster strikes in order to minimize loss and better protect our students and our staff.

New Hampshire agencies and organizations, both state and local, are here to support schools and childcare programs in the development and exercising of their Emergency Response Plans as well as aiding them with recommendations for securing facilities. The following are some of the services available:

1. NH Homeland Security and Emergency Management:
 - a. trainings,
 - b. Emergency Management Planning support and facilitation,
 - c. support in exercising the Emergency Management plan, and
 - d. the application of the seven recommended Response Actions, (see attached).
2. NH Department of Health and Human Services can provide support and trainings for critical incident response and recovery through the NH Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team, and
3. State Police and Office of the State Fire Marshal and Local Police and Fire Departments can support with:
 - a. building assessments,
 - b. planning and
 - c. response to active shooter reports, as well as
 - d. reports of hazardous materials.

Our multiple agency state team is looking to make sure that every school leader in the state is aware of these potential available services and has an opportunity to request those necessary for emergency preparedness. For this reason, we sent out a simple survey to building principals (via e-mail) on December 12th. If you did not receive this survey please contact Paul Leather. If you have not completed the survey please take a moment to do so.

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov

ACCOUNTABILITY, ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

A. AYP Task Force

Since 2010, the AYP Task Force has met jointly with a legislatively-required Commissioner's Task Force charged with developing the performance-based component of a state accountability system to assess whether schools are providing the opportunity for an adequate education. In December 2011, the Commissioner's Task Force reached agreement on performance indicators for schools with tested grades and issued its final report to the legislature. This report can be found on the NH DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/instruction/school_improve/comm_task_force.htm.

While the Commissioner's Task Force had completed its legislatively-defined scope of work, performance indicators for schools comprised of non-tested grades (K, K-1, K-2) were yet to be established. On December 10th, a focus group of school administrators with such schools met with the AYP Task Force for the purpose of discussing how best to produce an accountability report for schools comprised of non-tested grades and/or schools with very small enrollments.

Contact: Keith Burke, (603) 271-3846, Keith.Burke@doe.nh.gov

B. NECAP Online Writing Pilot

The New England Common Assessment Program is pleased to offer schools an opportunity to participate in the online delivery of the NECAP Grades 8 and 11 Writing Assessment. This initiative includes a pilot assessment in the spring of 2013 and, for schools that successfully complete the pilot (in spring 2011, spring 2012, or spring 2013), an operational assessment in the fall of 2013. Rather than testing the writing ability of your students, the goal of the pilot assessment is to confirm a school's capability to deliver an online assessment both in terms of technological infrastructure and administrative capacity. Therefore, no scores from student work in this pilot assessment will be returned.

Contact: Keith Burke, (603) 271-3846, Keith.Burke@doe.nh.gov

C. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium Update

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced or SBAC) is guided by the belief that a high-quality assessment system can provide information and tools for teachers and schools to improve instruction that is aligned with the Common Core State Standards in *English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* and *Mathematics*. The Smarter Balanced assessment system is being designed to do just that. As it is still in early development, there are many questions to be addressed and information disseminated to constituent groups. In an effort to consolidate relevant SBAC information for NH Superintendents and schools, NHDOE is working to provide more direct links to SBAC information through the www.education.nh.gov webpage (we anticipate this to be completed during January). The intent is to update SBAC information weekly and provide a focused location where information can be accessed. Until we have completed consolidating SBAC information on the NHDOE Web site, the following information and Web addresses may help understand the process.

a) Smarter Balanced Pilot Test

- Purposes of the Pilot Test are to:
 - Gather data on the functioning of items
 - Conduct initial scaling
 - Test the online test delivery engine
- **The Pilot Test entails two approaches:**
 - **Scientifically Selected Schools** – Approximately 10% of each SBAC state was selected in this portion of the pilot. Schools were selected based on predetermined demographic criteria to ensure that the pilot items are administered to a representative sample of students. Selected schools will be/were contacted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR), the sampling contractor.
 - Scientifically selected schools will be offered specific in-depth test administration training in the form of webinars and training modules and will be assigned a specific two-week window to test their students.
 - **Volunteer schools** – open to all schools in SBAC states but will experience the released test items available during the second half of the pilot test window. All schools are encouraged to volunteer to participate. Those interested can register via: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SmarterBalancedPilot>
- **Pilot Test Details:**
 - **Administration Time** – Schools should plan for approximately three hours of testing, per grade per content area. Scientifically selected schools will be requested to administer the Pilot Test in no more than two grades. Released test items will be available for the other grades and content areas.
 - **Technical Requirements for Participation** – Online test delivery system will work on a variety of hardware/operating system configurations (see the “Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium on NHEON” section and associated URL below for more information).
 - **Accommodations and Testing Features** – Some of the most common online accommodations and testing features will be available for the Pilot. The accommodations on the Pilot assessment will not be representative of the full array of accommodations and testing features that will ultimately be available.
- **Pilot Test Related Dates:**
 - Online training test available: Mid-January 2013
 - Smarter Balanced Pilot Test window: February 20 – May 10, 2013
- **Pilot Testing information packets** were sent to the Scientifically Selected Schools during January 1 – January 4, 2013 from NHDOE.

b) Web Sites

- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium** – An excellent overview of Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) is provided with brief discussions related to Achievement Level Descriptors, Technology Strategy Framework, and some Sample Assessment Items. www.education.nh.gov/spotlight/ccss/sbac.htm

- **Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium on NHEON** – This area contains Information on technology requirements for testing including bandwidth, hardware and system specifications. <http://nheon.org/oet/readiness/smarterbalanced.html>

c) Achievement Level Descriptors

Smarter Balanced has announced the availability of draft initial achievement level descriptors (ALDs) for feedback and review through January 15, 2013. Developed by K-12 teachers, higher education faculty, and content experts, the initial ALDs describe levels of student performance in English language arts/literacy and mathematics on the Smarter Balanced assessments. Smarter Balanced has also released a college content-readiness definition with associated implications for 12th grade and postsecondary coursework at each achievement level on the 11th grade assessment. A full description of the ALDs, the college content-readiness definition and policy framework, and an online survey for providing feedback are available at www.smarterbalanced.org/achievement-level-descriptors-and-college-readiness.

Contact: Scott Mantie, (603) 271-3844, Scott.Mantie@doe.nh.gov

CERTIFICATION

A. Alternative 4 and 5

Please remember that if you have candidates in your school district who have a Statement of Eligibility (SOE) their individual professional development plan (IPDP) should be forwarded to the Bureau of Credentialing within four weeks of the date of hire. It is expected that an alternative 4/5 candidate for New Hampshire certification will construct a professional development plan for that certification that is just as rigorous as if they are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an institution of higher education. A portfolio of evidence that documents completion of the appropriate competencies must be submitted for full certification. If you have questions about this process or need assistance please contact the Bureau of Credentialing. Candidates are expected to have passed the Praxis I before obtaining a SOE. Additionally, any requisite Praxis II content exams should be passed within the first year of the plan. For more information on updated procedures and a new Alternative 4/5 Handbook go to www.education.nh.gov/certification/index.htm,

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

B. Endorsements and HQT: 2011-2012 federal reporting

Please make sure all your teachers are highly qualified and certified for the courses they are teaching. Last year's HQT data has been extracted from EIS for the first time. It is important to update the EIS database with HOUSSE and transcript review details. Additionally, assignments are sometimes entered incorrectly or in a way that the HQT status of an educator may not be properly verified. To see the areas in question, please login to the Educator Information System (EIS) and click on the tab found on the top of the EIS page ("HQT" with a yellow star).

Contact: Ginny Clifford, (603) 271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov

C. PRAXIS Exams

Please be certain to use the ETS Web site when advising educators regarding the Praxis exams. It is critical that the New Hampshire web page (www.ets.org/praxis/nh?WT.ac=praxishome_states_121126) is consulted to ensure the appropriate test. The Department of Education is no longer creating a document of required tests and outdated Praxis memos should be discarded. Tests are updated regularly and the test numbers change.

Contact: Ginny Clifford, 603-271-3455, Virginia.Clifford@doe.nh.gov.

DATA

A. i4see Data

a) EOY 2011-2012 (End of Year) Final Report:

The Bureau of Data Management has published the document “ADM in Attendance and Residence.” Please ensure that the reports “EOY Determination Sign Off” and “ADM Report” have been certified, signed, and sent to the Bureau of Data Management. These reports are located on the i4see Work Bench under the Analysis Tab in the “Anomalies and State Reports” section for EOY.

b) BOY 2012-2013 (Beginning of Year):

Several districts remain uncertified for Beginning of Year (BOY) data. These files need to be certified as soon as possible. The “Public Fall Enrollment Sign Off Report,” located under the Analysis tab for the BOY Reports, should be sent to the Bureau of Data Management as soon as possible. We are planning to publish Fall Enrollment data as soon as all districts have certified. Districts should also sign and send the BOY Reports entitled “High School Dropouts,” “High School Completers,” and “2012 Cohort Report.”

c) Real Time Entry and Withdrawal for High School Students

Please be sure that the Real Time Entry and Withdrawal for High School Students is now in progress. i4see Contacts will be notified by email of any students who withdrew from another NH public high school to transfer into their public high school.

d) Course and Class submissions

Course and Class submissions should be completed for all public schools in NH. If you need any assistance, please email us at i4see.help@doe.nh.gov.

Contact: Sandy Hyslop, (603) 271-2831, Sandy.Hyslop@doe.nh.gov

B. PerformancePLUS

The Data Use Network will present three webinars in February following the release of the October 2012 NECAP results. The webinar will provide an update on the new reporting features of PerformancePLUS and coincide with the new testing data to be reviewed.

- Reviewing the Oct. 2012 NECAP Test in P+
Monday, February 11, 2013 - 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/933168880>
- Reviewing the Oct. 2012 NECAP Test in P+
Monday, February 11, 2013 - 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/514366000>

- Reviewing the Oct. 2012 NECAP Test in P+
Thursday, February 21, 2013 - 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/138564576>

C. Virtual Network Kick Off

The Data Use Network will hold a webinar on Friday, January 18, 2013 - 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. to demonstrate the new virtual network. To register go to <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/870439976>

FUNDING

A. FY2013 Adequacy Aid

Staff at the Department of Education (DOE) and Department of Justice (DOJ) met to discuss the Adequacy Aid formula for FY2013. Based on a close analysis of the adequacy statute passed in 2011, we have concluded that an adjustment needs to be made to this year's adequacy payments (FY 2013). Several times in the last six months the DOE reported estimated figures for this year, based on the mistaken understanding that the hold harmless provision covered both years of this biennium. However, this is not the case for FY 2013. Though the stabilization grant remains constant at the FY 2012 level for this year, the total grant for each city/town is reduced if the state-wide property tax goes up. The re-calculated grants can be found on the Department's Web page (www.education.nh.gov/data/state_aid.htm).

Contact: Paul Leather, (603) 271-3801, Paul.L Leather@doe.nh.gov or
Judith Fillion, (603) 271-3855, Judith.Fillion@doe.nh.gov

GRANTS and REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

ALL RFPs Can be Found on the Department Website at
www.education.nh.gov/rfp/index.htm

A. State of New Hampshire High School Equivalency Test

The Bureau of Adult Education has issued a request for proposals for a new High School Equivalency Test. The current GED test will no longer be offered after December 31, 2013. The new test must be aligned to the Common Core State Standards and must be available in both computer based and paper versions. The successful bidder for this project should have demonstrated experience in developing and administering large scale assessments by paper and computer, training for test administrative staff, and printing/shipping a high volume of tests and test related materials in a timely and secure manner. The successful bidder must have a minimum of three (3) years of experience providing services for large scale (e.g. statewide or national) high stakes testing programs. A "high stakes" testing program includes assessments used for federal and state educational accountability purposes, student graduation requirements and college qualification or entrance exams. Deadline for receipt of completed proposals is January 28, 2013.

Contact: Art Ellison, (603) 271-6698, Arthur.Ellison@doe.nh.gov

HEARINGS

School Building Aid and Regional Career and Tech Centers and Charter School Leases (Ed 321 and Ed 322)

A public hearing will be held at 11:00 a.m. on January 16, 2013 in the State Board Room at the NH Department of Education, 101 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH 03301. Deadline for submission of written comments is January 31, 2013.

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

INNOVATIONS/INITIATIVES

A. New Hampshire Model Educator Support and Evaluation System

The Phase II Educator Effectiveness Task Force Report will be rolled out on January 29th by Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D., Commissioner of Education. The purpose of this report in part is to make recommendations to the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education for the design of a NH approach to educator evaluation.

Contact: Karen Soule, (603) 271-4196, Karen.Soule@doe.nh.gov

B. Network Update

The New Hampshire Networks are off to an exciting start getting launched in November and December, and more planned to kick off in January and February. The objective is to provide high quality professional learning opportunities across an array of Technical Assistance and Innovation Topics, through in-person and virtual professional learning communities and Knowledge events based on the needs of districts. About 300 participants across 50 SAUs have taken part in the initial networks focused on Data Use, Next Generation Learning, Performance Assessment, and Performance-based Data Systems. In addition, *The New Hampshire Network*—an online knowledge base and social networking site will be introduced in January, providing access to a broad array of high quality information resources on learning models, technology tools, and teaching practices, with the ability to connect to one another and experts.

Contact: Deb Connell (603) 271-3769, Deborah.Connell@doe.nh.gov or
Adam Rubin, 2Revolutions LLC, adam@2revolutions.net

NH HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN

A. High School Redesign in Action

High School Redesign in Action is the New England Secondary School Consortium's fourth annual conference for secondary educators to share success stories and exchange best practices that will help schools prepare all students for success in the colleges, careers, and communities of the 21st century. The conference will take place from 1:00 p.m. Thursday, March 21st until 2:15 p.m. Friday, March 22nd at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood, MA. For more information or to register go to www.newenglandssc.org/conference.

SCHOOL APPROVAL STANDARDS

This section applies to both public and non-public schools

A. Minimum Standards for Public School Approval

The Department is reviewing the Administration of Minimum Standards in Public Schools because the current Ed 306 rules are due to expire July 1, 2013. We have established a steering committee of stakeholders to assist us with recommendations to the State Board for this review. The Charge of the Committee is to:

1. Update the entire 300 series Administration of Minimum Standards in Public Schools with respect to the ESEA Flexibility Waiver and College and Career Ready Standards;
2. Make crystal clear the expectations in the minimum standards as they pertain to state adequacy input requirements; and
3. Create a more consistent and common format for the curricular standards.

The next meetings will be January 14th and January 28th, in the State Board Room at 10:00 a.m. We have established a page on our Web site to make this review process transparent and available to all (www.education.nh.gov/legislation/ed306review.htm).

Contact: Mary Mayo, (603) 271-3189, Mary.Mayo@doe.nh.gov

SPECIAL EDUCATION

A. How To Write Age-Appropriate Measurable Annual IEP Goals

Special educators and related service providers will learn how to use the information from the present levels of performance to write a statement of what the child will learn and be able to do. They will learn the IDEA definitions of measurable annual goals and objectives. They will learn what needs to be included in the writing of age-appropriate measurable annual IEP goals and objectives to help build the students skills so they can access, participate, and make progress in the general curriculum. These Professional Development opportunities will be held at the NH Department of Education, Room 15 on:

- Tuesday, January 15, 2013, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (preschool-3rd grade)
- Monday, March 25, 2013, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. (middle school years 4th-7th grade)
- Monday, May 6, 2013, noon-3:00 p.m. (high school and transition/Post-Secondary)

The deadline to register is two weeks prior to the training in which you wish to attend.

Contact: Mary Steady, (603) 271-3730. Mary.Steady@doe.nh.gov

B. Secondary Transition and Indicator 13 Training

The Bureau of Special Education is offering two sessions. These sessions are free and you only need to register for one. The presenter will be Dawn Breault, Bureau of Special Education Technical Assistance Consultant.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Beyond Compliance: <i>Understanding your data & the “whys” of decision-making in transition planning</i> | March 11, 2013 (9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.) NHDOE, Room 15 | Open to all NH High School Special Education Staff |
|---|--|---|

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| Beyond Compliance: <i>Understanding your data & the “whys” of decision-making in transition planning”</i> | March 11, 2013 (2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.) NHDOE, Room 15 | Open to all NH High School Special Education Staff |
|--|---|---|

Contact: Amy Jenks, (603) 271-3842, Amy.Jenks@doe.nh.gov

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. NHVR Transition Internship

The NHVR Transition Internship for special education teachers and coordinators, transition coordinators, and other school staff is designed to provide district personnel an opportunity to work closely with their local VR office and transition counselors. The project is intended to provide teachers with information regarding the VR program and process, adult agencies, employers' needs, labor market information, disability legislation, etc. Application packets will be available in March, with submission of application due in April. Earn 3 graduate credits through Keene State College and receive a \$500 stipend from VR for completing the course. For more information visit www.education.nh.gov/career/vocational/index.htm

Contact: Angela Keef, (603) 271-3804. Angela.Keef@doe.nh.gov

B. OPEN NH Online Professional Development Courses

Registrations are now being accepted for the Winter Session of OPEN NH courses. The seven week, 35 hour online professional development courses begin on February 6th and run through March 26th. Districts can also request the special delivery of any of our courses over a 7-8 week time frame of their choice. To request a special delivery course, a designated team leader should complete a Special Course Delivery Registration form, available online, and send it to the OPEN NH Project Coordinator for processing, or contact the coordinator.

OPEN NH offers a variety of group discounts for SAUs, districts, or schools. Deals include 25 seats in our seven week 35 hour online professional development courses for \$2,625 or 4 seats for 2 teachers for \$440. Complete list of courses running in the OPEN NH 2012 Sessions, as well as descriptions of all courses in the OPEN NH catalogue can be found on the Web site at www.opennh.org. OPEN NH is part of the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education.

Teaching Enhancement courses for online course facilitation and online course development are available through the program. Visit the Web site for details. Graduate credits are available through Plymouth State University at additional cost.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

C. OPEN NH Self-Paced Tutorials

a) Bullying Awareness and Prevention

In an effort to assist schools in providing training for ALL school related employees, volunteers, substitute teachers and others, the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Program and the NH e-Learning for Educators Project, both programs of

the New Hampshire Department of Education, have developed a short online tutorial training on bullying awareness and prevention. This tutorial costs \$10.00 and covers basic issues surrounding bullying, the Impact of cyberbullying, and the requirements of the New Hampshire Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention Act. Participants will earn a Certificate of Completion for 3 hours of professional development that will satisfy the required basic training in bullying awareness and prevention. For more information and online registration, visit www.regonline.com/bullyingtutorial.

b) Substitute Teaching: Tools and Tips for Success

In an effort to assist schools in preparing potential substitute teachers for teaching in NH schools, the NH e-Learning for Educators, a program of the New Hampshire Department of Education, is offering a short online tutorial through OPEN NH. This tutorial costs \$25.00 and provides basic knowledge and skills necessary for being an effective substitute teacher. Proper preparation before substituting in a school or district will greatly increase the confidence and comfort level of substitute teachers working with students in the classroom. The tutorial provides a brief overlook of education today and prepares potential substitutes with an understanding of how teachers and students interact in our changing educational landscape. Basic skills and techniques for teaching lessons to students along with some strategies for managing behavioral issues are explored. Finally, the tutorial covers a basic understanding of the kinds of policies and procedures that schools must operate under, including the NH pupil safety policy involving bullying. For more information and online registration, visit www.regonline.com/substitutetutorial.

Districts may register cohorts of teachers in the tutorial(s) at reduced cohort registration rates. For more information, visit www.opennh.org or contact the OPEN NH Project Coordinator.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

RESOURCES

A. CompetencyWorks

CompetencyWorks is a collaborative initiative drawing on the knowledge of its partners and an advisory board. The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) is the lead organization with project management facilitated by MetisNet. CompetencyWorks recently released its second issue brief, *The Learning Edge: Supporting Student Success in a Competency-Based Learning Environment* today. This brief as well as other resources can be found at www.competencyworks.org.

B. Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger

The *NH Roadmap to End Childhood Hunger*, the first statewide plan of its kind to outline a systematic guide to tackling the root causes of childhood hunger, was recently released at Henniker Community School on November 20th. The School Breakfast Program and the After School Snack Program are two of the USDA child nutrition programs included in this plan. We encourage you to share the Roadmap with your staff. To learn more, please go to www.childrennh.org.

Contact: Cheri White. (603) 271-3646, Cheri.White@doe.nh.gov

C. Tuesday Telegraph

The Tuesday Telegraph is a brief newsletter distributed by the Office of Early Childhood. The news bulletin typically offers 3-4 items for your consideration including health, research, free materials, content support, and available professional development. The information is broad to engage a statewide audience of early childhood professionals, parents, and support systems within private and public entities. Back issues are available on the Early Childhood home page of the DOE Web site

www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/early_learning.htm. To receive the Tuesday Telegraph in your in-box please send your electronic address to: Ellie.Riel@doe.nh.gov.

Contact: Ellie Riel, (603) 271-0078, Ellie.Riel@doe.nh.gov

OTHER

NH Teacher of the Year Nominations

Superintendents, principals, teachers, school staff members, teacher organizations, parents, and others interested in New Hampshire schools are encouraged to nominate an outstanding teacher by submitting their request to the New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) by February 14, 2013. A Teacher of the Year candidate should be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable, and skilled person from any state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade twelve, who intends to continue in the teaching profession. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. Selecting a Teacher of the Year is an exceptional way to celebrate the many outstanding and dedicated people teaching in New Hampshire schools. Teacher of the Year nomination forms and applications can be downloaded from the DOE Web site at www.education.nh.gov/recognition/toy.htm. Nominees must submit their applications to the NH DOE by March 19, 2013. All nominees who submit the required information will be honored at a ceremony in April.

Contact: Lori Temple, (603) 271-6646, Lori.Temple@doe.nh.gov

National Youth Science Camp for Two NH Students

Applications to attend the 2013 National Youth Science Camp are now available. Each year NH gets to send two students - all expenses paid - to West Virginia for National Youth Science Camp. Each high school may submit one candidate. An intent to apply survey can be found at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QGN268F>. Applications and more information can be found at www.education.nh.gov/recognition/nysp.htm. The application deadline is February 15, 2013.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov

Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation Awards

The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency is now accepting nominations for four Agriscience awards and four Life Science awards.

- The **Agriscience Awards** are designed to highlight the importance of agriculture in the 21st century. The Foundation, in partnership with the American Farm Bureau

Federation, will present four monetary awards to three groups representing new innovative approaches in the field of agriscience around the country. One \$10,000 Distinguished Agriscience Scientist Award will be presented to an adult scientist. One \$5,000 Agriscience Educator Award will be presented to a current high school educator who emphasizes concepts, principles, and applications in their curriculum to promote the study of agriscience to students. Two \$1,000 Agriscience Student Awards will be presented to current high school students who are judged to exemplify excellence in the field of agriscience. The deadline for submissions is January 29, 2013. For more information go to www.agriscienceawards.com.

- The Foundation has partnered with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to present four **Life Sciences Awards**. The recipient of each award must be making or has recently made a significant and positive contribution in the field of life sciences as indicated in each award. The \$10,000 Chairmen's Distinguished Life Sciences Award is presented to a scientist for the development of a "cutting edge" innovation in the field of life sciences. One \$5,000 Life Sciences Educator Award is presented to a current high school educator, with at least five years of teaching experience, who is promoting the study of life sciences to students. Two \$1,000 Life Sciences Student Awards are presented to current high school students who are making or have recently made significant and positive contributions related to the study of Biology, Chemistry and other life sciences courses. The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, February 12, 2013. For more information go to www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org.

National School Change Awards

This initiative of the National Principals Leadership Institute is co-sponsored by the American Association of School Administrators and recognizes six schools across America for having significantly changed for the better. Schools measure themselves against 16 specific criteria and consider the degree to which they have improved, grown, and significantly changed. This is a very valuable process, perhaps even more important than being one of the six awardees each year. A downloadable application form and more information is available at www.npli.org/nsca. Nominations must be received by March 13, 2013.

School Employee Wellness Awards

The Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE) is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 School Employee Wellness Awards Program (SEW). SEW recognizes schools and school districts that demonstrate commitment to the health of their employees by implementing quality school employee wellness programs. Awardees will receive special recognition for their efforts that include grants to be reinvested in their employee wellness programs (Bronze \$250, Silver \$500, Gold \$1000). To apply for DHPE's School Employee Wellness Awards Program or to learn more about school employee wellness programs, visit www.dhpe.org/schoolemployeewellness. Applications must be submitted by February 4, 2013. If you have questions, please contact Aryka Chapman at achapman@dhpe.org for program assistance, or Wendy Sahli at wsahli@dhpe.org for technical assistance.

Letters About Literature 2013

New Hampshire students in grades 4 to 10 are invited to enter the 2013 Letters About Literature competition sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in cooperation with the Center for the Book at the NH State Library. To enter students are asked to write a personal letter as if to an author (living or not) whose book they found inspiring. The

letter must be personal but persuasive, explaining just how the author's work changed the young reader's view of themselves or their world. Cash prizes will be awarded to state winners at each of three competition levels and the winning letters will be entered in the national competition where the first place winner will receive a \$1,000 cash award. Complete details on entering, including a coupon that must accompany each entry, are at <http://lal.nhbookcenter.org>. The competition deadline is January 11, 2013.

Teen Video Challenge

The Young Adult Librarians of New Hampshire are asking teens to create 30- to 90-second public service announcements that encourage both reading and using public libraries throughout the summer. This year's theme is "Beneath the Surface." Filmmakers must be 13 – 18 years old and legal residents of the state. New Hampshire's winner will be awarded \$275 and will join other state winners as official national Collaborative Summer Library Program Teen Video Challenge champions. For more information, visit yals.nhlibrarians.org. Deadline to enter is February 4, 2013.

Short Film Festival

The New Hampshire Film & Television Office, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, will once again present the New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival, which will take place in June 2013. Students from NH public and private high schools are encouraged to start planning and producing their projects, which do not have to be created as part of a class assignment. The submission period opens February 1, 2013. More details are available at www.nhstudentfilm.com. Media arts faculty interested in receiving updates about the Festival via e-mail should contact film@nh.gov.

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program

The 2013 application for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Young Scholars Program will open on January 17. Students with exemplary academic records and substantial financial need are encouraged to apply. Those selected receive financial support for educational and extracurricular activities, as well as one-on-one help applying to high schools, colleges, summer programs, and more. Young Scholars tell their advisor what they'd like to become. Over the next five years the Foundation uses its considerable resources to help them get there. For more information go to <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarships/young-scholars-program/how-to-apply> or contact outreach coordinator Lionel Foster at (410) 735-6270 or jkcinfo@jhu.edu.

Community Facilities Grants

Community Facilities Programs provide loans, grant and loan guarantees for essential community facilities in rural areas. Priority is given to health care, education, and public safety projects. Typical projects are hospitals, health clinics, schools, fire houses, community centers and many other community based initiatives. For more information go to http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html or contact Karen Demers at (603) 223-6045 or Karen.Demers@nh.usda.gov.

Wildlife Action Grant

Teachers and community members interested in involving youth to make a difference for wildlife through habitat projects on schoolyards, public areas or community lands can apply to the Homes for Wildlife Action Grant Program for start-up funds. This New Hampshire Fish

and Game Department program provides mini-grants of \$300-\$600. Habitat projects create spaces for outdoor learning, and can range from a butterfly garden to shrubs for birds to a pond for amphibians – your imagination is the limit. The deadline for submitting proposals is February 1, 2013. For more information or a proposal packet, visit www.wildnh.com/Education/project_HOME.html, or write to Marilyn Wyzga, Public Affairs Division, N.H. Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, N.H. 03301; e-mail marilyn.wyzga@wildlife.nh.gov; or call (603) 271-3211.

Differentiated Instruction and the Common Core

On January 11, 2013, NHASCD presents Dr. Carol Ann Tomlinson who will speak on Differentiated Instruction and the Common Core: Providing All Students with Access to High Quality Learning. Dr. Tomlinson will describe the critical components for combining high expectations and high support to maximize each student's success. Participants will look at the key elements of effective differentiation and their connection with the Common Core State Standards. The conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Grappone Center in Concord. For more information or to register go to www.cvent.com/events/january-11th-2013-nhascd-conf-carol-ann-tomlinson/invitation-b71c8effe0754549903a3def11aad46f.aspx.

LESCN 5th Annual Spring Conference

Educating in the 21st Century...and Beyond! An Educator's Guide to Personalized Learning in the Cloud will take place Monday, April 1, 2013, 8:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. at Church Landing at Mills Falls in Meredith. For more information and a link for online registration please visit www.srpdc.com.

Contact: Tammy Morse, (603) 543-4200 ext. 261, tmorse@sau6.k12.nh.us

Retooling for the Common Core: Professional Learning for Measurable Results

The Learning Forward New Hampshire Conference will take place on Friday, March 15, 2013 at SNHU in Manchester. Stephanie Hirsh and Victoria Duff from Learning Forward will keynote this day-long conference. For more information or to register go to www.lfnh.org.

Contact: Deborah S. Roody, (603) 472-2062, learningforwardnh@gmail.com

Digital Learning Day 2013

Digital Learning Day is **February 6, 2013**. We urge you to step up and be counted, as you join the wave of innovation sweeping across our nation's schools. Participation is free and easy and is open to all interested educators in and out of school. As a registered Digital Learning Day participant you'll receive exclusive information including ways to participate and tips for incorporating digital tools into your daily instruction. Sign-up to receive several interactive lessons that you can use on Digital Learning Day. This will provide you with an opportunity to collaborate with tens of thousands of educators nationwide to celebrate the potential of digital learning right from your own classroom or school. For more information on Digital Learning Day, visit www.DigitalLearningDay.org or sign up at www.digitallearningday.org/registration/.

Contact: Stan Freeda, (603) 271-5132, Stanley.Freeda@doe.nh.gov or Rachel Jones with National Digital Learning Day at rjones@all4ed.org

Fisher Cats Educational Days

The New Hampshire Fisher Cats have announced the team's Educational Days for the 2013 season. Schools can choose from the following games:

- April 10th (10:35 a.m.)
- April 25th (10:35 a.m.)
- May 8th (10:35 a.m.)

Join schools from across the region as they take part in an educational setting while attending a professional baseball game. The Fisher Cats encourage you to plan your lesson plans around your field trip to the park. There will also be:

- Interactive educational material on the video board
- Pre-Game educational activities on the field
- Educational exhibits and entertainment on the concourse
- Historical characters walking around the stadium

Tickets for this event are offered at a discounted rate and vary from \$5-\$8. For more information or to book your group go to

www.milb.com/team2/page.jsp?ymd=20100513&content_id=10015030&vkey=team2_t463&ext=.jsp&sid=t463 or contact Stephanie Fournier at (603) 641-2005 ext. 105 or e-mail sfournier@nhfishercats.com.